

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 35 and add new claims 37-52, as indicated below, so that the pending claims are as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A compound comprising a peptide moiety, a spacer moiety, and a water-soluble polymer moiety wherein the spacer moiety is between the peptide moiety and the water-soluble polymer moiety and having the structure:



wherein  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\varepsilon$  are each integers whose values are independently selected.

Claim 2 (Original): The compound of claim 1, wherein

$\alpha$  is an integer,  $1 \leq \alpha \leq 6$ ;

$\beta$  is an integer,  $1 \leq \beta \leq 6$ ;

$\varepsilon$  is an integer,  $1 \leq \varepsilon \leq 6$ ;

$\delta$  is 0 or 1;

$\gamma$  is an integer,  $0 \leq \gamma \leq 10$ ; and

Y is either NH or CO.

Claim 3 (Original): The compound of claim 2, wherein  $\gamma > 1$  and  $\beta = 2$ .

Claim 4 (Original): The compound of claim 1 wherein

$\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon = 2$ ;

$\gamma = \delta = 1$ ; and

Y is NH.

Claim 5 (Original): The compound of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer moiety is a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) The compound of claim 5 wherein the molecular weight of the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is 20 KDalton or more.

Claim 7 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is linear.

Claim 8 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDalton.

Claim 9 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has polydispersity value ( $M_w/M_n$ ) of less than 1.20.

Claim 10 (Original): The compound of claim 1, wherein the peptide moiety is peptide monomer comprising a single peptide.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein the peptide moiety is a peptide dimer comprising two peptides peptide monomers linked by a linker moiety.

Claim 12 (Original): The compound of claim 10 or 11, wherein each peptide comprises no more than 50 amino acid monomers.

Claim 13 (Original): The compound of claim 12, wherein each peptide comprises between about 10 and 25 amino acid monomers.

Claim 14 (Original): The compound of claim 1, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to erythropoietin-receptors.

Claim 15 (Original): The compound of claim 1, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to thrombopoietin-receptors.

Claim 16 (Original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising

- (a) a compound comprising a peptide moiety, a spacer moiety, and a water-soluble polymer moiety wherein the spacer moiety is between the peptide moiety and the water-soluble polymer moiety and having the structure



wherein  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\varepsilon$  are each integers whose values are independently selected; and

- (b) one or more pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants and/or carriers.

Claim 17 (Original): The composition of claim 16, wherein

$\alpha$  is an integer,  $1 \leq \alpha \leq 6$ ;  
 $\beta$  is an integer,  $1 \leq \beta \leq 6$ ;  
 $\varepsilon$  is an integer,  $1 \leq \varepsilon \leq 6$ ;  
 $\delta$  is 0 or 1;  
 $\gamma$  is an integer,  $0 \leq \gamma \leq 10$ ; and  
Y is either NH or CO.

Claim 18 (Original): The composition of claim 17, wherein  $\gamma > 1$  and  $\beta = 2$ .

Claim 19 (Original): The composition of claim 16 wherein

$\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon = 2$ ;  
 $\gamma = \delta = 1$ ; and  
Y is NH.

Claim 20 (Original): The composition of claim 16 wherein the water-soluble polymer moiety is a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 20 wherein the molecular weight of the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is 20 KDalton or more.

Claim 22 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is linear.

Claim 23 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDalton.

Claim 24 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has polydispersity value ( $M_w/M_n$ ) of less than 1.20.

Claim 25 (Original): The composition of claim 16, wherein the peptide moiety is peptide monomer comprising a single peptide.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The composition of claim 16, wherein the peptide moiety is a peptide dimer comprising two peptides peptide monomers linked by a linker moiety.

Claim 27 (Original): The composition of claim 25 or 26, wherein each peptide comprises no more than 50 amino acid monomers.

Claim 28 (Original): The composition of claim 27, wherein each peptide comprises between about 10 and 25 amino acid monomers.

Claim 29 (Original): The composition of claim 16, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to erythropoietin-receptors.

Claim 30 (Original): The composition of claim 16, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to thrombopoietin-receptors.

Claim 31 (Original): The compound of claim 1, wherein

$\alpha = 2$ ;

$\gamma = \delta = \beta = \varepsilon = 0$ ; and

Y is CO.

Claim 32 (Original): The composition of claim 16, wherein

$\alpha = 2$ ;

$\gamma = \delta = \beta = \varepsilon = 0$ ; and

Y is CO.

Claim 33 (Original): The compound of claim 5 wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises at least one monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain.

Claim 34 (Original): The compound of claim 33 wherein each poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): The composition of [[16]] claim 20 wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises at least one monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain.

Claim 36 (Original): The compound of claim 35 wherein each poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 37 (New): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains.

Claim 38 (New): The compound of claim 37, wherein each monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 39 (New): The compound of claim 37, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine residue.

Claim 40 (New): The compound of claim 37, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine amide.

Claim 41 (New): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains.

Claim 42 (New): The composition of claim 41, wherein each monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 43 (New): The composition of claim 41, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine residue.

Claim 44 (New): The composition of claim 41, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine amide.

Claim 45 (New): The compound according to claim 11, wherein:

the linker moiety has the structure  $-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_{\eta}-\text{N}-(\text{CH}_2)_{\phi}-\text{CO}-$ ,

N of the linker moiety is covalently attached to Y of the spacer moiety,

Y of the spacer moiety is CO, and

$\eta$  and  $\phi$  are integers whose values are independently selected.

Claim 46 (New): The compound of claim 45, wherein

$\eta$  is an integer  $1 \leq \eta \leq 6$ ; and

$\phi$  is an integer  $1 \leq \phi \leq 6$ .

Claim 47 (New): The compound of claim 46, wherein  $\eta = \phi = 1$ .

Claim 48 (New): The compound of claim 45, wherein

- (i) one or both peptide monomers comprise a lysine residue having an  $\epsilon$ -amino group, and
- (ii) one or both CO linkages of the linker moiety form an amide bond with the  $\epsilon$ -amino group.

Claim 49 (New): The composition according to claim 26, wherein:

the linker moiety has the structure  $-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_{\eta}-\text{N}-(\text{CH}_2)_{\phi}-\text{CO}-$ ,  
 $\text{N}$  of the linker moiety is covalently attached to  $\text{Y}$  of the spacer moiety,  
 $\text{Y}$  of the spacer moiety is  $\text{CO}$ , and  
 $\eta$  and  $\phi$  are integers whose values are independently selected.

Claim 50 (New): The compound of claim 49, wherein

$\eta$  is an integer  $1 \leq \eta \leq 6$ ; and  
 $\phi$  is an integer  $1 \leq \phi \leq 6$ .

Claim 51 (New): The compound of claim 50, wherein  $\eta = \phi = 1$ .

Claim 52 (New): The compound of claim 49, wherein:

- (i) one or both peptide monomers comprise a lysine residue having an  $\epsilon$ -amino group, and
- (ii) one or both CO linkages of the linker moiety form an amide bond with the  $\epsilon$ -amino group.

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